

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for distributing and installing print device
2 fonts, the method comprising:
3 maintaining a web site which facilitates selection from a set of
4 print device-ready fonts;
5 through the web site, obtaining information concerning a visitor's
6 system configuration;
7 through the web site, permitting selection from a set of
8 compatible fonts within said set of print device-ready fonts, compatibility being
9 determined based upon said information concerning a visitor's system
10 configuration;
11 from the web site, authorizing transfer of a selected one or
12 multiple ones of said set of compatible fonts; and
13 from the web site, installing said selected one or multiple ones of
14 said set of compatible fonts on a visitor's print device.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said web site
2 comprises a web site with a graphical user interface and software to permit
3 visitors to shop, view and purchase any one or more of said set of print device-
4 ready fonts and said step of authorizing transfer comprises authorizing transfer
5 after purchase of a selected one or multiple ones of said set of compatible fonts.

1 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said software to
2 permit purchase comprises a financial services interface and supporting
3 software for handling electronic purchase transactions.

1 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said set of print
2 device ready fonts comprise pre-tested fonts matched to print device models of
3 common manufacturers and operating configurations.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a
2 step of accessing a configuration database to determine said set of compatible
3 fonts based upon said information concerning a visitor's system configuration.

1 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said
2 configuration database includes configuration and performance data for one or
3 more print device products.

1 7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising a
2 step of displaying potential estimated performance gains which may result from
3 the purchase of a font selected by a visitor.

1 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said
2 information concerning a visitor's system configuration includes one or more
3 of an operating system version, CPU type, CPU speed, print device driver
4 versions, print device models, and frequently used fonts.

1 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of
2 obtaining said information concerning a visitor's system configuration
3 comprises launching software which obtains said information concerning a
4 visitor's system automatically.

1 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said software
2 which obtains said information comprises software which inspects the visitor
3 system.

1 11. The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of
2 obtaining said information concerning a visitor's system configuration
3 comprises receiving information through a form completed by a visitor.

1 12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of
2 obtaining said information concerning a visitor's system configuration
3 comprises launching software which obtains said information concerning a
4 visitor's system automatically.

1 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said software
2 which obtains said information comprises software which inspects the visitor
3 system.

1 14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of
2 obtaining said information concerning a visitor's system configuration
3 comprises receiving information through a form completed by a visitor.

1 15. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of
2 installing comprises launching software which configures the fonts onto the
3 visitor's print device.

1 16. A method for distributing print device fonts, the method
2 comprising:

3 guiding, through a web site, a visitor through selection of one or
4 more fonts compatible with a system configuration of the visitor;

5 offering to sell, through the web site, one or more fonts
6 compatible with the system configuration of the visitor; and

7 from the web site, in response to a purchase by a visitor,
8 installing said selected one or multiple ones of said set of compatible fonts on a
9 visitor's print device.

1 17. A web site for distributing print device fonts, the web site
2 being accessible over the Internet and comprising software for:

3 permitting a visitor to select fonts compatible with that visitor's
4 system configuration;

5 determining whether to authorize installation of a selected one or
6 selected multiple compatible fonts; and

7 installing said selected one or selected multiple compatible fonts
8 on a visitor's print device in response to an authorization determined in said
9 step of determining.

1 18. The web site according to claim 17, further comprising
2 software for:

3 obtaining configuration information from a visitor's system; and

4 comparing obtained configuration information to a database
5 including configuration and performance data for multiple print device
6 products; and

7 determining a set of fonts compatible with the system
8 configuration of the visitor.

1 19. The web site according to claim 17, further comprising
2 software for requesting and processing visitor payment for a selected one or
3 selected multiple compatible fonts, wherein said step of determining whether to
4 authorize includes determining whether payment has been requested and
5 processed by said software for requesting and processing.

1 20. The web site according to claim 17, further comprising
2 software for displaying graphical interfaces to guide a visitor through selecting
3 one or multiple compatible fonts.

1 21. The web site according to claim 17, further comprising
2 software for displaying fonts compatible with that visitor's system
3 configuration.

1 22. The web site according to claim 17, further comprising
2 software for displaying a selected one or selected multiple compatible fonts

1 23. A method for distributing print device fonts through a web
2 site, the method comprising steps of:

3 maintaining a web site which permits a visitor to select from
4 fonts determined to be compatible with the visitor's system by an analysis of
5 information obtained by the web site;

6 determining whether to authorize installation of a selected font or
7 fonts;

8 installing, via the website, a font or fonts authorized for
9 installation by said step of determining.

1 24. The method according to claim 22, further comprising a
2 step of advertising fonts available through the web site.